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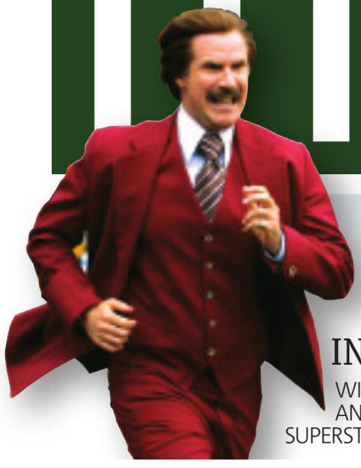

BURGUNDY SPRINTING TO METRO INTERVIEW

WILL FERRELL TALKS ANCHORMAN 2 — AND SUPERSTAR CAMEOS PAGE 16

Reaching out to Kellogg's employees a slam dunk

Lightning to play free game for laid-off workers PAGE 4

Hey, pregnant lady — get off your butt

Western researchers say pregnant women who need to kick the craving should turn to exercise PAGE 6

(Shudder) Aw Gawd ... there are Doritos everywhere

Prepare for chip-topped chicken wings PAGE 10

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Local businesses holding their heads up high

Chamber of commerce. Survey reveals good levels of growth, business confidence

Business confidence is high in London, and business leaders can prove it.

It's been a tough week for the Forest City, with 550 jobs affected by the Kellogg's closure announcement and word that Canada Post cuts will hit hard locally. But London Chamber of Commerce CEO Gerry Macartney has good news in the preliminary results from a survey of businesses.

Here's one statistic: Asked if their net sales or growth were up or down in the last year, 45 per cent reported an increase, 40 per cent stayed the same and just 14 per cent were down.

How about confidence? The survey showed 52 per cent said it was the same as last year and 27 per cent said they were feeling more confident.

About 1,000 businesses were polled and the response rate was more than 20 per cent, Macartney explained. There's also a good spread of business sizes in the responses.

"While it's a poor time of year to ignore or forget the pain that the 500-plus folks at Kellogg's will go through, for the community's sake, we're moving in a lot of positive directions," Macartney said.

But there are "issues," he said, with finding skilled labour.

Although 46 per cent of businesses described the cost of labour locally as a competitive advantage for London, more than a third — 35 per cent — said difficulties in finding qualified workers locally is a disadvantage for local businesses.

Businesses have a message for city hall, too: You need to improve your game.

Macartney said a significant minority, 26 per cent, are concerned about the city's fiscal management. And 40 per cent want more city money spent on economic development.

In 2014, economic development within their companies will be the top priority for 45 per cent of businesses that answered the survey.

The results of the poll will be used as the chamber acts as an advocate for business in the municipal next year, Macartney said. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

9 HOURS, 2 BIG BLAZES

St. Thomas firefighters battle a Thursday blaze on Talbot Street that ripped through part of a downtown block destroying multiple businesses. The fire was the second the department handled in the area in a matter of nine hours. More coverage, page 3. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

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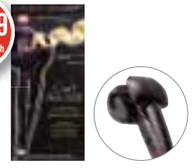

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Two fires destroy four St. Thomas businesses

Nine hours apart. First fire under investigation as second is attributed to fallen candle

SCOTT TAYLOR
scott.taylor@metronews.ca

Lives are in chaos after two fires just nine hours apart tore through four adjoining buildings in downtown St. Thomas, leaving behind little more than rubble.

The first blaze began just before 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Canadian Woodenware building on New Street. The empty mill was scheduled to be demolished within days.

Shane Ferguson, who lives about 30 metres from the building, said he ran out to his front porch when he heard there was a fire.

"I started taking pictures of the flames shooting out the top. Then the hydro lines went up and they were snapping in the water here," he said.

He went back to bed after making sure the flames were no threat to his house. He soon woke up to a second astonishing sight.

Firefighters said the original blaze was out when the second one ignited in Big John's Plumbing on Talbot Street between Clinic 217 and Bob Jones Auto Supply.

Fire prevention officer Bill Todd said while the cause of the first fire will be investigated, the cause of the second is known.

The owner of Big John's Plumbing, John Gale, was "in his business securing the front door."

"The hydro had been cut off, so he lit a candle," Todd said. "When his back was turned, the candle fell on a desk and a fire ignited."

Todd said Gale tried to extinguish it himself but wasn't able. No charges are expected to be laid.

One firefighter sustained a minor injury on the scene.

The office manager of Clinic 217 said about 80 methadone patients a day are treated there and she's worried about what will happen to them.

Uncertain futures

"There's a pharmacy up front that they go to, and it's all gone now."

The office manager of Clinic 217, on the 80 methadone patients she overlooks

St. Thomas fires timeline

- **7:30 p.m., Wednesday.** Fire starts in empty Canadian Woodenware building.
- **9 p.m., Wednesday.** Fire is finally knocked down.
- **4 a.m., Thursday.** A second blaze ignites in Big John's Plumbing.
- **2 p.m., Thursday.** The second fire is finally contained.

A St. Thomas firefighter attacks the blaze that broke out Wednesday morning as smoke billows up from Talbot Street.
SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Community still wants to make use of shuttered public school

Sherwood Forest. Former classrooms to get new life

The school may be closed but the kids still want to play there.

Developers are circling hungrily at the former Sherwood Forest Public School, but the community is keeping a careful eye.

People fought to keep the school open, in vain, and now the fight goes on, led by Sandy Levin of the Orchard Park Sherwood Forest Ratepayers Association.

"The hope for the future now is we would really like to see some form of infill development that's consistent with the design of the neighbourhood, as well as retaining some of the playground space as an active playground," Levin said. "We really don't have a place where the city has any playground equipment in our neighbourhood.

"This had been kind of the community gathering place for this part of our neighbourhood."

Levin said the city's made it clear it won't buy the land, on Annadale Drive in northwest London, and create a park, but he's still hopeful it will get involved somehow.

The site is about five and a half acres and surrounded by low-rise, single detached homes on all sides. The school's play equipment has already been removed.

The city has the area earmarked for low-density housing, although a row or cluster of attached buildings might be possible under the city's official plan. The site itself is zoned for a neighbourhood facility like a school or church, so that would need to be changed before it's developed.

There were two meetings with the community, including the ratepayers' association and the Sherwood Forest School Site Committee.

A report to the city's corporate services committee this week made it clear the community would have preferred the site to stay a school.

But, if that's not an option, the right kind of housing and a park that fronts on to the street would have support.

The report also notes the city has "no identified municipal purpose for the lands."

At city hall, discussions on the subject have been taking place in private, including during the in-camera part of this week's corporate services committee meeting at city hall.

It's expected to be on the agenda for the full council next week.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Quoted

"The city, we think, is really the only partner that can pull it off."

Sandy Levin, on the hopes for a playground at the site.

Investigation

Driver killed in crash was 14, police say

The driver who died after crashing a stolen truck early Wednesday was 14 years old, London police said Thursday.

A second 14-year-old has now been arrested. Witnesses told police a passenger fled from the vehicle shortly after the crash, which saw the truck nearly split in half.

The Ford F-150 was travelling east on Admiral Drive about 2:15 a.m. when it crashed into a tree on the south side of the street just west of Bonaventure Drive, police said.

Although the investigation is continuing, speed is believed to have been a contributing factor.

The driver was taken to hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. A postmortem examination has determined he died from injuries sustained in the crash.

The 14-year-old who has been arrested has been charged with one count of breaching bail.

Anyone with information in relation to the incident is asked to call police at 519-661-5670.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

On the web

For more local news go to metronews.ca

Fancy a skate? The rinks are now open

Just one person was brave enough to try it in Thursday's frigid weather, but free skating in downtown London is now open to the public. If you want to join in, rinks are at Victoria Park and outside Covent Garden Market. Thursday night skating is also up and running at Storybook Gardens. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Closing down. City, Lightning reach out to Kellogg's workers

The London Lightning and the City of London are teaming up in an effort to make dark days a little brighter for Kellogg's employees.

After learning of their plight, Mayor Joe Fontana approached the Lightning basketball team about orchestrating a free game for the Kellogg's staff and their families.

The idea has happily come to fruition with an invitation to the Dec. 19 game against the Halifax Rainmen at Budweiser Gardens.

"It is the Christmas season and Londoners should be happy this time of year," Lightning general manager Taylor Brown said. "Hopefully these great Kellogg's employees enjoy the game and this family outing brightens their day."

Every Kellogg's employee and their families will get free admission, a complimentary soft drink and a bag of popcorn.

Kellogg's officials told the factory's staff on Tuesday that the plant, which makes cereals including Frosted Flakes and Corn Flakes, will be shuttered by the end of 2014.

The closure will affect 550 jobs.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Search. Police looking for missing man who hasn't been seen for two weeks

London police are continuing their search for a 53-year-old man who's been missing for more than two weeks ago.

Timothy Duane Ireland was last seen on Nov. 27 in the area of Fanshawe Park Road West and Hyde Park Road, police said.

Ireland is described as five-foot-eight, 140 pounds, with long grey hair often worn in a ponytail. He has a full beard, blue eyes, wears glasses and was last seen wearing a black ball cap and a denim jacket.

Police and family are concerned for Ireland's welfare.

Timothy Ireland
COURTESY LONDON POLICE

Anyone with information is asked to call police at (519) 661-5670. METRO

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Apartment hunting. Rentals stock shrinks in London-St. Thomas area

It was a little more difficult to find an apartment in London-St. Thomas in October 2013 than it was the previous year, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation says.

According to the corporation's Fall Rental Market Survey, the rental apartment vacancy rate this year was 3.3 per cent, down from 3.9 per cent in 2012.

Slow income growth that delayed some renters' decision to buy a home was one of the factors affecting the number, said Alexander Bonnyman, a senior market analyst for London.

Other factors included employment levels of 15- to-24-year-olds and student demand, Bonnyman said.

Year over year, the cost of an average two-bedroom apartment increased by 1.6 per cent in the London area.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Rent

$924

Average rent for a two-bedroom unit in the London area this year, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Losing steam. Ontario home price increases expected to slow down

A new forecast suggests Ontario home prices will rise about four per cent a year through 2016, down from a decade-long annual average of about six per cent.

The forecast by Central 1 Credit Union says higher mortgage rates in the next three years will restrain housing sales but not cause a market correction.

Central 1 also predicts Ontario's overall rental apartment vacancy will hold steady at 2.6 per cent through 2014, before declining to less than two per cent in 2016.

Average price increases of two to three per cent annually are forecast in the Northwest, London, Windsor-Sarnia, Hamilton-Niagara and Muskoka-Kawarthas regions.

Average price growth of around one per cent annually is forecast for the Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa and Kingston-Pembroke regions.

Central 1 expects sales growth through 2016 will be concentrated in Toronto, although sales are also forecast to rise in the Northeast, Windsor-Sarnia and Stratford-Bruce regions.

Sales will remain near 2013 levels in the Ottawa, London and the Northwest regions.

Sales are forecast to slow in the Kingston-Pembroke, Hamilton-Niagara, Muskoka-Kawarthas and Kitchener-Waterloo regions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Apartment vacancy

2.6%

Ontario's overall rental apartment vacancy will hold steady at 2.6 per cent through 2014.

Crime prevention

Lock it or lose it: Police initiative

If you leave your car unlocked in the next few weeks, expect it to be tagged.

Police department's across Ontario are launching their annual Lock it or Lose it campaign as a reminder to be proactive about stolen vehicles and thefts of items left inside cars.

That means London auxiliary officers will be making rounds, examining parked cars to make sure they're locked and that no valuables have been left in plain view.

Small notices will be left on vehicles that have been checked, indicating which safety precautions were neglected and offering crime-prevention tips.

People who have done everything correctly will get a note of congratulations — the police department's version of a gold star. METRO

No sweat: Researchers at Western University say female smokers are more likely to kick the habit while pregnant if they hit the gym or simply take a walk.

GETTY IMAGES

Smokers told to get off their butts

Exercise helps. Western University study is a first among pregnant women

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Pregnant women who want to stop smoking have new advice to rely on.

Researchers at Western University say they should get up and exercise. The experts say just 15 to 20 minutes of walking can stave off those cravings for tobacco.

A team from the faculty of health sciences, led by Harry Prapavessis, director of the Exercise and Health Psychology Laboratory, has had its findings published in the journal Addictive Behaviors.

Despite the health risks, 19 per cent of Canadian women between 20 and 24 reported smoking during their most recent pregnancy, the university says.

Studies have shown it can lead to lower birth weight, prenatal death and even behavioural problems in the child after birth.

"Based on what we know about smoking and pregnancy, these numbers are too high," said Prapavessis. "Consistent with previous research, our study reveals that low-to-moderate intensity exercise is associated with a reduction in cravings and even tobacco withdrawal symptoms amongst pregnant smokers.

"We believe exercise holds great potential to help women quit smoking during pregnancy."

Research has shown that exercise minimizes cravings and tobacco withdrawal symptoms after temporary abstinence in smokers, but this study is the first time the scenario has been replicated in pregnant smokers.

Impact of exercise

30%

Reduction in tobacco cravings after 20 minutes of exercise, according to a Western University study of 30 pregnant women in their second trimester. All smoked about 10 cigarettes a day.

A gas tax hike has been proposed to pay for public transit expansion.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Higher gas tax should fuel more public transit: Panel

Ontario should hike the gas tax by up to 10 cents a litre, along with other levies to help raise the billions of dollars needed for public transit expansion in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area, a government-appointed panel said Thursday.

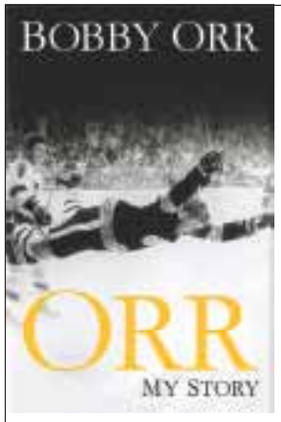
One option is to increase the gas tax by three cents a litre in 2015, climbing to 10 cents after eight years, the panel said. The government could also redirect the Harmonized Sales Tax that it already collects on the gas tax to transit and raise corporate taxes by half a per cent.

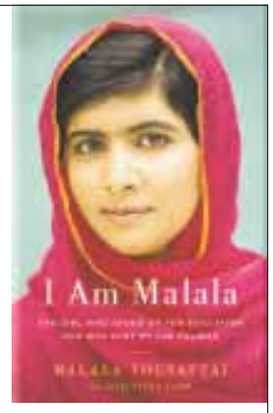
Another option would be to cap the gas tax increase at five cents a litre after three years if the HST is raised by half a per cent after that.

Ontario currently imposes a 14.7-cent-per-litre levy on unleaded gasoline, a number that hasn't changed in more than 20 years.

Even though both the HST and gas tax are collected across the province, residents outside the Toronto and Hamilton areas won't be subsidizing transit there because they would receive their share of both the HST and gas tax to fund their own transit projects, said Ann Golden, chairwoman of the panel.

"People will get the math," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS





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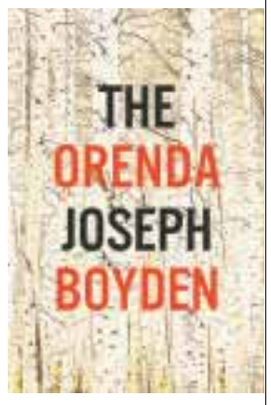

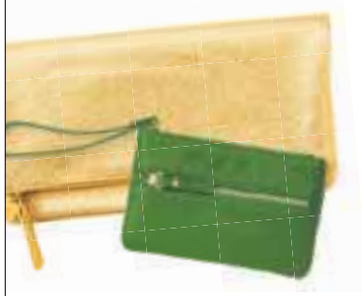

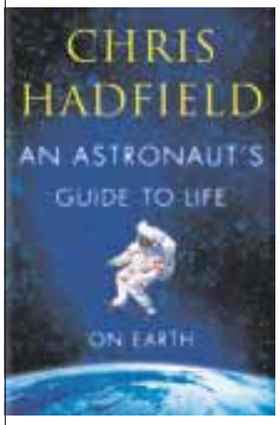

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North Korea executes Kim Jong-un's uncle

Pyongyang. News report calls him 'a traitor to the nation' and 'worse than a dog'

North Korea on Friday announced the execution of Kim Jong-un's uncle, calling the leader's former mentor a traitor who tried to overthrow the state.

The announcement came only days after Pyongyang announced through state media that Jang Song Thaek — long considered the country's No. 2 power — had been removed from all his posts because of allegations of corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and leading a "dissolute and depraved life."

The state news agency KCNA said a tribunal examined Jang's crimes, including "attempting to overthrow the state by all sorts of intrigues and despicable methods with a wild ambition to grab the supreme power of our party and state."

Jang was seen as helping Kim Jong-un consolidate power after the death of his father, Kim Jong-il, two years ago. Jang was the latest and most significant in a series of personnel reshuffles that Kim has conducted in an apparent effort to bolster his power.

Some analysts see the purge as a sign of Kim Jong-un's growing confidence, but there has also been fear in Seoul that the removal of such an important part of the North's government — seen by outsiders as the leading supporter of Chinese-style economic reforms — could create dangerous instability or lead to a miscalculation or attack on the South.

Tensions are still high on the Korean Peninsula following a torrent of threats in March and April by Kim Jong Un's government against Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, including vows of missile and nuclear strikes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People watch a TV news program at Seoul Railway Station, South Korea, on Monday showing Jang Song Thaek, centre, being grabbed at a meeting of Workers Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang the day before. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine will sign EU deal, deputy PM says

Ukraine's deputy prime minister said Thursday his financially troubled country will soon sign a trade and co-operation deal with the EU after the bloc promised more aid to the former Soviet republic.

Serhiy Arbuzov's comment came after a day of talks with EU Commissioner Stefan Fuele in Brussels, which were being closely watched by anti-government protesters in Ukraine who are demanding such a deal.

"Ukraine will soon sign this association agreement with the European Union," Arbuzov said. That would mark a U-turn by President Viktor Yanukovych, who had refused to close such a deal with the European Union at a summit in Lithuania two weeks ago.

Fuele said such an agreement would lead to "bigger and bigger" EU financial aid to Ukraine, and that the bloc has "made a clear commitment to match in our financial support the level of ambitions of our Ukrainian partners."

A pro-European Union activist in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earlier Thursday, the bloc's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, said that Yanukovych had told her he "intends to sign" at some point the trade and co-operation agreement he had rejected.

For weeks, activists have been amassed in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, to protest Yanukovych's decision regarding the EU deal.

They are deeply concerned that he could instead sign an agreement to join a Russia-led customs union when he and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet next week.

Yanukovych appears to be in a tough corner. As protesters furious over his decision to turn away from the EU clog the centre of Kyiv, he appeared to be leaving his options open for the best deal he can get from his economically troubled country's powerful suitors.

Russia has put heavy pressure on Ukraine to join its bloc, which includes Belarus and Kazakhstan. Opponents say the bloc effectively tries to recreate the Soviet Union.

Yanukovych has said he is still open to the EU association agreement, if he can get a deal providing more aid to Ukraine, which is concerned about the impact of losing trade with Russia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rob Ford. Reporter serves mayor libel notice

Mayor Rob Ford was slapped with a libel notice late Thursday for televised comments he made about a reporter, who said the remarks amounted to an accusation of pedophilia.

Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale would not comment on his suit that also names Vision TV, which aired the Ford interview, saying an article he wrote for his newspaper would have to stand.

"Enough is enough. I can't tolerate it. I won't tolerate it," Dale wrote.

"I'm asking Ford to immediately retract the false insinuation that I am a pedophile. I am also serving Vision TV, which twice broadcast Ford's vile and defamatory remarks ... even though their interview was filmed days before it aired."

The notice also calls for Vision TV to apologize.

Ford said a day after the interview that he stood by "every word."

He left city hall Thursday evening without saying anything. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said at a news conference on Tuesday that he stands by "every word" he said during a televised interview in which he appeared to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec

Mayor goes to police with corruption scheme

Quebec's anti-corruption squad, known as UPAC, is giving Chateauguay Mayor Nathalie Simon full marks for filing a complaint with police this past September.

The mayor was hailed as a hero Thursday as the unit announced four arrests in a corruption sweep in the working-class town south of Montreal. Police allege the four men were trying to corrupt Simon with money and personal favours in exchange for decisions that would lead to influential positions within the city's administration or to land being re-zoned for development projects.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wireless networks

CRTC to see if telecom giants gouge little guys

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) will look into whether big wireless companies are charging their smaller Canadian competitors too much to use their networks.

The CRTC says some of the larger companies are charging — or want to charge — smaller Canadian companies "significantly higher" wholesale roaming rates than they charge wireless companies in the United States.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada

Crew puts out fire mid-flight

Crew members aboard an Air Canada Express turboprop aircraft managed to put out an engine fire before returning to an airport on central Vancouver Island Thursday morning, says a Transportation Safety Board investigator.

Glen Friesen, the TSB's acting regional manager, said passengers saw flames in the plane's No. 2 engine shortly after the Dash 8-300 took off from the Nanaimo Airport.

"The crew extinguished the fire with the emergency fire bottles that are installed on each engine," said Friesen. There were no injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Children run along a towpath between houses earlier this year in Qunu, South Africa. Nelson Mandela's funeral will be held in Qunu. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Village braces for Mandela funeral

Massive event. Final goodbye comes with major challenges for tiny Qunu

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

The population of Qunu is just under 300, but a mass invasion is underway ahead of Nelson Mandela's funeral Sunday, when the Eastern Cape village where Madiba grew up hosts one of the largest events in South African history.

"There is a lot of people and a lot of disruption," said a spokesperson at the Nelson Mandela Museum, the largest building in Qunu, which has become the site of a marquee for the world's media.

Much larger temporary structures are being hastily constructed to host the ceremony and its 5,000 guests, with officials admitting work is behind schedule. Eleven venues in the local area will screen the funeral for those unable to attend, with up to 70,000 expected, and accommodation prices rising sharply across the region.

Roads leading to the village will be blocked, and the local airport in Mthatha will become a no-fly zone, reserved for around 100 private jets transporting dignitaries. "The military will be in control," announced municipality mayor Nomakhosazana Meth. "Everything is in order there, and we are ready to warmly welcome our guests."

Quoted

"Everything is in order there, and we are ready to warmly welcome our guests."

Nomakhosazana Meth, municipality mayor

Many world leaders and celebrities are expected to attend, including Charles, Prince of Wales, and Oprah Winfrey. More than 1,500 members of the media have been accredited. But residents of the village have claimed they are being prevented from attending the funeral because of the visitors.

On Saturday, a military aircraft will take Mandela's remains from Pretoria 900 kilometres away to the Eastern Cape. The funeral begins at 9 a.m. local time on Sunday. The ex-president will receive a Christian burial, but also the Xhosa rituals of his community with an address to his spirit.

Schizophrenia. Sign language interpreter says he was hallucinating

The man accused of faking sign interpretation while standing alongside world leaders like U.S. President Barack Obama at Nelson Mandela's memorial service said Thursday he hallucinated that angels were entering the stadium, has schizophrenia and has been violent in the past.

Thamsanqa Jantjie said in a 45-minute interview with The Associated Press that his hallucinations began while he was interpreting and that he tried not to panic because there were "armed policemen around me." He added that he was once hospitalized in a mental health facility for more than one and a half years.

The statements by Jantjie also raise serious security issues for Obama, other heads of state and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who stood next to Jantjie as they made speeches at FNB Stadium in Soweto, Johannesburg's famed black township. The ceremony honoured Mandela, the anti-apartheid icon and former president who died on Dec. 5.

A South African deputy Cabinet minister, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, later held a news conference to announce that "a mistake happened" in the hiring of Jantjie. However, many questions remain, including who in the government hired the company that contracted Jantjie, how much money the government paid the company and Jantjie's own involvement with the company — and even whether it really exists.

AP journalists who visited the address of the company that Jantjie provided found a different company there, whose managers said they knew nothing about SA Interpreters. A woman who answered the phone at a number that Jantjie provided confirmed that she worked at the company that hired him for the memorial service but declined comment and hung up.

Quoted

"This does not look like anything I have seen in signers with psychosis."

Jo Atkinson, clinical psychologist and researcher at the Center for Deafness, Cognition and Language, on Thamsanqa Jantjie's signing

Government officials said they have tried to track down the company that provided Jantjie but the owners "have vanished into thin air," said Bogopane-Zulu, deputy minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities.

She apologized to deaf people around the world who were offended by Jantjie's incomprehensible signing and said an investigation is under way to determine how Jantjie was hired and what vetting process, if any, he underwent for his security clearance.

A medical expert with University College London cautioned that Jantjie's unusual sign language didn't look like it was caused by schizophrenia or another psychosis.

"The disruption of sign language in people with schizophrenia takes many forms but this does not look like anything I have seen in signers with psychosis," said Jo Atkinson, who is a clinical psychologist and researcher at the Center for Deafness, Cognition and Language.

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Have the munchies? Doritos has you covered

Feed the need. On the heels of the popular Doritos Locos Tacos, prepare for chip-topped chicken wings and Mountain Dew sauces

Dorito dust may be the new salt for more restaurant chains.

PepsiCo Inc., which owns Cheetos, Fritos, Tostitos and other snacks, found success last year after teaming up with Taco Bell to create Dorito-flavoured taco shells. And it has since been dreaming up other restaurant dishes featuring its popular snacks.

The company announced Thursday that it struck a deal to serve its drinks at Buffalo Wild Wings, picking a significant client from beverage rival Coca-Cola Co. Notably, PepsiCo also said it would work with the sports-centric chain to create "unique menu offerings."

In an interview, Buffalo Wild Wings CEO Sally Smith that she visited PepsiCo's food innovation lab in New York and was shown several dishes the chain might put on its menu. Ideas included Doritos as a crunchy topping for wings or tenders, or even just offering potato chips as a side dish.

Additionally, Smith said she was shown salad dressings and sandwich and chicken wing sauces that incorporate PepsiCo's sodas, including Mountain Dew.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If PepsiCo has its way, you'll be licking more of that red, sticky dust from your fingers as it builds on the success of Doritos Locos Tacos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/TACO BELL

So crazy, it worked

Over at Taco Bell, Doritos Locos Tacos continue to be a considerable sales driver.

- Taco Bell CEO Greg Creed has noted that a major advantage of the tacos is that competitors can't replicate them — their success is largely tied to the popularity of the Doritos brand.

TimmyMe app

Two years after Starbucks, Tim's tries tap-and-pay

A limited number of Tim Hortons stores are now letting you pay for a double-double with your smartphone.

Participating outlets in Canada and the U.S. will allow users with some BlackBerry 10 devices, iPhones and Google Android smartphones to pay with a TimmyMe app.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Share with up to 15 peeps

Filter who gets that latest selfie on Instagram Direct

Instagram has added a new feature that lets users share photos and videos with up to 15 people rather than everyone who follows them on the popular Facebook-owned photo-sharing app.

Called Instagram Direct, the feature is available for Apple and Android phones, CEO Kevin Systrom said at a news event in New York City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Licence to sue

Beastie Boys aim to set it straight, countersue toy co.

The Beastie Boys are firing back after a toy company sued them over a video parody of their song Girls.

The two surviving members of the rap trio filed a lawsuit of their own Tuesday in Oakland federal court claiming toy company GoldieBlox unfairly used the popular song as a jingle to sell its products.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 93.98¢ (-0.42¢)

TSX 13,114.39 (-19.03)

OIL $97.50 US (+$0.06)

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THE GOOD PEOPLE WANT GANJA

THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Asian cockroaches.** A new species has been discovered in the Big Apple. Recently identified by scientists as Periplaneta japonica, a genus native to Japan, the insect is known in China and Korea for its ability to survive in cold climates. New Yorkers remain unfazed by news of another living creature trying to survive and breed in their city.

2 **Grounded.** Last Friday, Tom Wagner fell asleep on a flight to Houston. He was overlooked by staff and awoke to find himself trapped in the dark aircraft. He called his girlfriend and she notified the airline, who eventually rescued him. Counter-terrorism agencies expressed concern over the news but airport security assured them that Wagner had nothing in his shoes and did not have a bottle of water.

3 **Mama knows.** Mothers' favourite gift this year is the FiLIP smartwatch. A colourful wristwatch doubling as a phone with voice and GPS so parents can keep track of their kids at all times. American women are currently lobbying for this same technology to be used in wedding rings.

4 **Everything I (Think I) Am.** Kanye West is the world's greatest artist. Just ask him. He appeared at his Texas concert wearing a mask and someone shouted, "Take it off." After having security eject the paid-ticket holder, Kanye cleared up any possibility of mistaken identity by declaring his full name. "I'm Kanye-motha-f–in-West!" he said. And no one's arguing that.

5 **Grass is greener.** Hashtag "cannabis" has been trending on Twitter, and not just because weed-smokers repeatedly tweeted while forgetting they had. Ganja is making news because public appeal for legalization is growing, while staunch opposers recycle archaic myths of reefer madness as they guzzle their spirit of choice. "It's a gateway drug," they say. Yes, the gateway to procrastination and poor gastronomical decisions. And last I checked, neither one of those is criminal.

6 **Heading south.** U.S. private equity firm Bain Capital has managed to overtake one of our country's great national treasures: Canada Goose. Current president Dani Reiss says that the corporation intends to maintain the high standards for outerwear that his family worked hard to create, and that they will continue to be made in Canada. Oh good, so we still won't be able to afford them.

7 **Hallelujah.** Time magazine's Person of the Year goes to Pope Francis! The people's pontiff was chosen for refocusing the church away from condemnation and back to basics like mercy, compassion and maybe even smoking weed.

8 **This week in music.** On Dec. 12, 1957, rock 'n' roll icon Jerry Lee Lewis, who was still married to his first wife, secretly wed his 13-year-old second cousin Myra Gale Brown. This "degenerate trifecta" raised interesting public debate about which was more disturbing: the bigamy, the incest, or the statutory rape. Now, that's what I call some Great Balls of Fire.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Burglary — it's monkey business

CYRIL RUOSO/MINDEN PICTURES/SOLENT NEWS

Baboons raid apartment for food

These baboons show they really are cheeky monkeys by breaking into an apartment, stealing food and parading their loot, including a giant teddy bear. Around 10 chacma baboons clambered into the third-floor flat in Cape Town, South Africa, and wreaked havoc, after one of their accomplices managed to get the window open. METRO

Photog says

"I am quite used to working with monkeys but I was amazed. When they came out with a giant teddy bear, I was even more astonished."

Cyril Ruoso, wildlife photographer, 43, from France

Loss of habitat leads to urban raid

Due to loss of natural habitat, baboons on the Cape Peninsula are adapting to human environment, entering urban areas in search of food.

"The intimidation that the big males employ has become physical and my young son no longer feels safe in the house," says Pierrer de Villiers, who lives in the town of Scarborough on the peninsula. METRO

A baboon escapes with a teddy bear. SOLENT NEWS

Clickbait

IRENE KUAN
irene.kuan@metronews.ca

CONTRIBUTED

The festive season is in full swing, which means there is an overwhelming amount of holiday indulgence and selfie-snapping. Here are some apps that can help you look flawless, albeit not so natural, in photos.

Facetune:

For $2.99, this photo-editing app for iPhone and iPad is the perfect tool to help you achieve a professional-looking, polished photo. Options include a function to smooth the appearance of wrinkles. Smooth not enough? There's a "smoother" option, too.

Pixtr:

Use this free app to instantly perfect your photos. Pixtr can automatically correct face symmetry and remove blemishes and wrinkles. It can work with solo images, as well as group shots, personalizing results for each subject.

Beauty Camera:

This free photo-editing app for Android is designed to make you look beautiful. Say there's no good light in the room for a photo — no worries! Beauty Camera can instantly change the lighting and tonal details in the photo. You can also compare the effects with the original photo.

Twitter

pick us up on time?

@metropicks asked: A Vancouver bus driver isn't allowed to wear a Santa suit because it's against uniform policy. Should he be allowed?

@TrentRedekop: will it help him

@EthanDR: "He might not be identifiable as the transit operator" ... umm he's the one driving the bus #IDENTIFIED!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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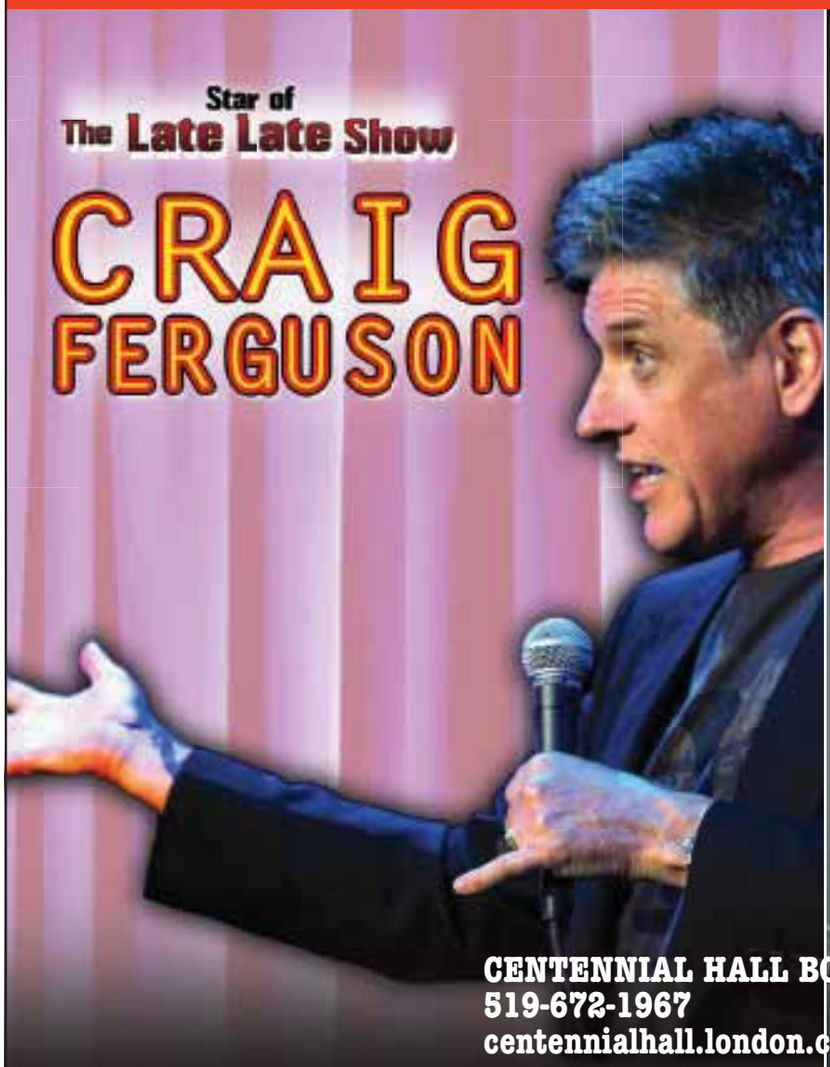

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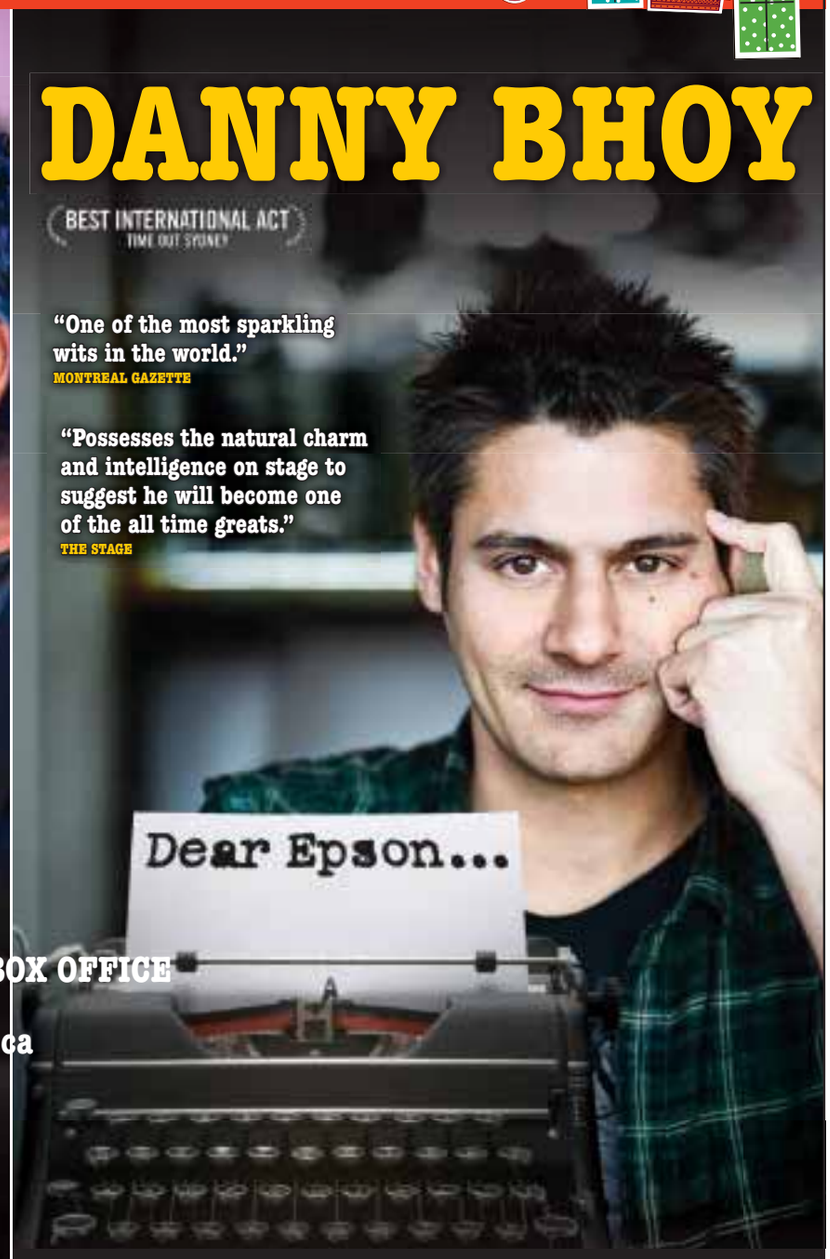
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Synopsis

Picking up where An Unexpected Journey left off, Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and Gandalf (Ian McKellen) join with Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) and his army of 12 dwarves. Their goal is to traverse Mirkwood, Esgaroth and Dale to locate the fire-breathing dragon Smaug who hoards the wealth of the Lonely Mountain. On the way they battle giant spiders, make a deal with Bard the bowman (Luke Evans), the descendant of the original Lord of Dale, and some helpful and not-so-helpful elves (including a good lookin' and deadly She-Elf played by Evangeline Lilly).

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●○○○

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug is more of an Unexpected Journey — only one that doesn't really go anywhere. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

This Hobbit is hobbling

The Desolation of Smaug. J.R.R. Tolkien fans will surely geek out on the latest installment but one of the Reel Guys couldn't care less about the film

Richard: Mark, despite the sense of mild confusion I felt as I tried to piece the story together, I really enjoyed The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. It took a lot of backstory to get to the fifth film based on Middle-earth and its inhabitants and it will help if you know your Shire from your Sauron or your Skin Changers.

But having said that, Peter Jackson has crafted a great action adventure with the same consistency of tone, style and spirit that runs through the LOTR and Hobbit movies. They feel like story shards chipped off the same block.

Mark: Richard, there are two kinds of people in this world — those who admire and enjoy the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, and those who are repelled by his neo-medieval, Druidic nonsense.

You can guess which camp I fall into. I sat through the Rings trilogy under great duress, and skipped the first Hobbit entirely. So the only question was how much I would loathe this picture. The good news is: not that much. True, the entire movie and everyone in it needs a haircut, but the set pieces worked, especially the barrel escape down the river and the entire dragon sequence. But the movie felt so long I could have flown to Tokyo for dinner and gotten back in time for the end credits.

RC: I think fans will find the length just about right… non-fans, maybe not so much. This one worked for me. There's a Richard Attenborough old school epicness about it. It is about good and evil without troubling nuance or anti-heroes.

Perhaps because Englishman Tolkien penned these action adventure stories during the Second World War when evil was clear-cut, his books are ripe with allegory but straightforward in their approach to morality and good vs. evil.

MB: A good point, but maybe it's precisely that serious, hectoring tone that always turned me off. Evangeline Lilly, on the other hand, did not turn me off — quite the opposite.

She really holds the screen even if her ears need cosmetic surgery. But the ending — a cliffhanging cheat, if you ask me — elicited a collective groan from the audience and made the experience feel incomplete. Did you like the dark look of the picture?

RC: I did like the look. It's darker in tone than the Hobbit books for sure, but I thought it suited Peter Jackson's take on the story. I also liked the Walking Dead style battle scenes — lots of arrows in heads.

MB: I kept hoping for someone to show up with a gun and put them all out of my misery.

Lots of talent, but little gold to go around

Golden Globes noms. It's a crowded field and the Hollywood Foreign Press doesn't seem to know what funny is

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Zoe Saldana, Aziz Ansari and Olivia Wilde have a laugh before announcing the noms for the Golden Globes on Thursday in California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Awards season is officially here, thanks to the announcements of the Golden Globe nominations, and the best word to describe this year's crop is crowded. So crowded, in fact, that some heavy hitters have been almost left out.

Steve McQueen's 12 Years a Slave is still considered the lead favourite, with nominations for the film itself, director McQueen, stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender and Lupita Nyong'o, screenwriter John Ridley and composer Hans Zimmer.

But with such a crowded year it's easy for votes to get split. At least McQueen doesn't have to worry about David O. Russell's nomination-heavy American Hustle until the Oscars, as the Hollywood Foreign Press (HFPA) have placed it in the musical or comedy category (see sidebar).

Though it earned several nominations earlier in the week from the Screen Actors Guild, Lee Daniels' the Butler didn't garner a mention — not even for Oprah Winfrey, despite the HFPA's starstruck reputation. And while Martin Scorsese's Wolf of Wall Street nabbed nominations for the film and star Leonardo DiCaprio, it didn't make the cut in any other major category. Sorry, Scorsese.

Ejiofor, Idris Elba and Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be pulling double duty come the night of the awards, with nominations in both the film and television categories. And ceremony co-host Amy Poehler might have to take a break to make an acceptance speech, as she's up for her work on Parks and Recreation.

But what's most noteworthy about the television nominations is what and who didn't get nominated. The HFPA obviously didn't respond to the most recent season of Mad Men, as the series didn't score a single nod. Neither did HBO's Game of Thrones or Showtime's Homeland. And while Downton Abbey earned a nomination for the series itself, none of the cast — not even Maggie Smith — warranted a mention.

The Golden Globes will be awarded during a televised ceremony Jan. 12, four days before the Academy Awards nominations are announced.

That's not funny!

The HFPA is earning more than the usual amount of criticism this year for its musical or comedy film categories not really honouring musicals or comedy. Some of the films filling the top category — best picture musical or comedy (American Hustle, Her, Inside Llewyn Davis, Nebraska and The Wolf of Wall Street) shouldn't really be considered comedies, critics are arguing. Producers have been criticized in the past for positioning serious fare in the comedy category to increase a film's chances.

Nominations

- **Best Motion Picture Drama.** 12 Years a Slave; Captain Phillips; Gravity; Philomena; Rush
- **Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** American Hustle; Her; Inside Llewyn Davis; Nebraska; The Wolf of Wall Street
- **Best Director.** Alfonso Cuaron - Gravity; Paul Greengrass - Captain Phillips; Steve McQueen - 12 Years a Slave; Alexander Payne - Nebraska; David O. Russell - American Hustle
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Drama.** Chiwetel Ejiofor - 12 Years a Slave; Idris Elba - Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom; Tom Hanks - Captain Phillips; Matthew McConaughey - Dallas Buyers Club; Robert Redford - All is Lost

Taylor Schilling received a nom for her role in Orange is the New Black. CONTRIBUTED

- **Best Actor Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Christian Bale - American Hustle; Bruce Dern - Nebraska; Leonardo DiCaprio, - the Wolf of Wall Street; Oscar Isaac - Inside Llewyn Davis; Joaquin Phoenix - Her
- **Best Actress Motion Picture Drama.** Cate Blanchett - Blue Jasmine; Sandra Bullock - Gravity; Judi Dench - Philomena; Emma Thompson - Saving Mr. Banks; Kate Winslet - Labor Day
- **Best Actress Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Amy Adams - American Hustle; Julie Delpy - Before Midnight; Greta Gerwig - Frances Ha; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Enough Said; Meryl Streep - August: Osage County
- **Best Drama Series.** Breaking Bad; Downtown Abbey; the Good Wife; House of Cards; Masters of Sex
- **Best Comedy Series.** The Big Bang Theory; Brooklyn Nine-Nine; Girls; Modern Family; Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Drama Series.** Bryan Cranston - Breaking Bad; Lieve Schreiber - Ray Donovan; Michael Sheen - Masters of Sex; Kevin Spacey - House of Cards; James Spader - The Blacklist
- **Best Actress in a TV Drama Series.** Julianna Margulies - the Good Wife; Tatiana Maslany - Orphan Black; Taylor Schilling - Orange is the New Black; Kerry Washington - Scandal; Robin Wright - House of Cards
- **Best Actress in a TV Comedy Series.** Zooey Deschanel - New Girl; Lena Dunham - Girls; Edie Falco - Nurse Jackie; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Veep; Amy Poehler - Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Comedy Series.** Jason Bateman - Arrested Development; Don Cheadle - House of Lies; Michael J. Fox - The Michael J. Fox Show; Jim Parsons - The Big Bang Theory

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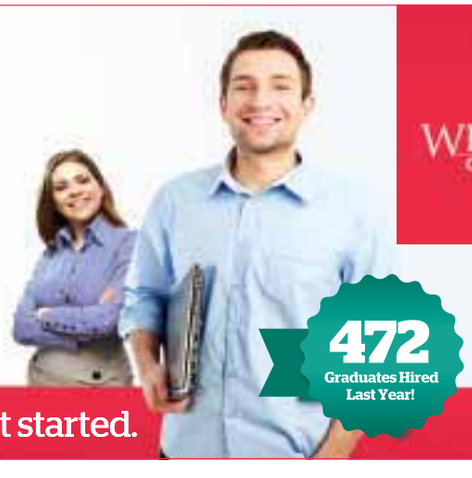

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Great Odin's Raven! Burgundy is back

Anchorman 2.
Will Ferrell swore he'd never make a sequel ... OK maybe just one

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

Anchorman 2 brings its style, class and fine taste in scotch to theatres next Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED

There's a stack of magazines sitting on the coffee table of Will Ferrell's suite at Toronto's Carlton-Ritz and as we settle down to chat in the plush chairs, the glossy one on top grabs his attention. He picks it up and flourishes his hand across its cover — a picture of a panda munching on a bamboo shoot.

"How apropos that there's a panda on the cover of this magazine, which was the big story in the first Anchorman. The panda story," he reminisces. "It's too bad they're almost extinct now. But let's not talk about that."

Indeed. Time is of the essence and Ferrell's got a few more upbeat things to wax about — like Anchorman 2 and his whirlwind promotion tour. Prior to touching down in Toronto earlier this month, he'd pulled a few Ron Burgundy stunts — co-anchoring a local newscast in Bismarck, N.D., and co-hosting the Roar of the Rings curling tournament in Winnipeg. But it's all a labour of love for Ferrell, who together with his co-writer Adam McKay, once swore they'd never do sequels — a claim with an asterisk for one special movie. "We would always have this sidebar conversation where it was 'well, if we ever were to do a sequel one day, it would probably be Anchorman,'" he says.

The original Anchorman reached almost cult-like status when it came out on DVD nearly 10 years ago. For a time, its jokes were fodder for every armchair comic. "People just started falling in love with this movie on a different level after repeat viewings," says Ferrell.

In Anchorman 2, Ron Burgundy and his reunited crew (Paul Rudd, Steve Carell, David Koechner) face a new decade – the '80s – with new challenges: a 24-hour cable news channel and – gasp — a female African American boss. In terms of joke density, Anchorman 2 packs in as many as the first and even more cameos. Kanye West, Will Smith, Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, Liam Neeson and Harrison Ford are just a fraction of the big names in the film.

"That's the love people have for Anchorman. We kept hearing from people and had them reaching out to us."

Ferrell says they even set their sights on Brad Pitt, who he wanted to play Ron Burgundy's pretty boy nemesis — anchor Jack Lime — but when Pitt declined, Ferrell and McKay brought in James Marsden. "We just did an informal read-through of the script to see how jokes were playing and Marsden read that part and we were like 'he's the guy,'" he says.

Ferrell adds the filmmaking felt more like a reunion party. "Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental and it was like, 'wow, we're actually going to do this again.'"

"It's cliché sounding but I don't know if I've worked more closely with any cast, the way we get along and how we have this shared sense of letting each other be funny all at the same time and there's no real competition. That's rare."

Quoted

"Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental."

Will Ferrell on the crew reprising their newscasting roles in Anchorman 2

Anchorman app

Scotchy, scotch scotch

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Anchorman 2: Scotchy Scotch Toss
iPhone/iPad/Android
$0.99
Are you "uh-mazing" or do you have "the motor skills of a very stupid baby"? Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) will judge in this pointless, scotch-flavoured game about tossing ice cubes.

Emma Thompson on the cusp of crotchety

Saving Mr. Banks.
Actress puts an interesting twist on a character that could have fallen to stereotype

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Just before our chat with Saving Mr. Banks star Emma Thompson, the British actress had wowed a press conference audience with a rather athletic entrance, vaulting herself over the dais — legs lifting high over the table — to get to her seat. The display was a far cry from P.L. Travers, her terse on-screen alter ego in Banks. But then there's a lot Thompson and Travers don't have in common.

I wanted to commend you on a fantastic entrance to the press conference.
Essentially what you have to understand is that spiritually I always carry a bladder on a stick and wear a cap and bells. I must, I think, in a past life been some sort of court jester. Because I seem to make it my aim in life to get a laugh. Any way you can.

And may I say, you're quite limber. I don't know that I could've managed that.
You can always go down and have a go later.

I found it a bit distracting in this film that you're far too young for the part.
Well, I'm not far too young. I'm 54 and she was 66 at the time. I also think I look very old — suitably and properly old. Travers herself liked to divide a woman's life into three main parts: nymph, mother and crone. So I said, "Why don't we just play her on that cusp between mother and crone?" There's still a kind of Eros, an erotic possibility for her, but you can see that it's never going to happen because she's too closed up. I think that's more interesting because you can see the possibility there, and you're not playing a crotchety old lady — who is rather more easy, because of the way that our world works, to dismiss.

Saving Mr. Banks opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 13 TO THURS., DEC. 19 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Hyland Cinema
240 Wharncliffe Road South

About Time (14A) Fri 9 Sat 2:45-9 Sun 3 Mon 1 Tue 9 Wed 4:25 Thu 6:50
All Is Lost (PG) Fri 3 Sat 7 Sun 1-7 Mon 5:05 Tue 1-7 Wed 2:25 Thu 1
It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Wed 6:45
Our Man in Tehran (PG) Fri 1-7 Sat 1 Sun 5:20 Mon 3:20-7:10 Tue 3:05 Wed 12:45 Thu 3:05-9:15
Sarah Prefers to Run (14A) Fri-Sat 5:05 Sun-Mon 9 Tue 5 Wed 9:15 Thu 4:55

Rainbow Cinemas London
355 Wellington St.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Wed 12:55-3:40-6:50-9:35 Thu 12:55-3:40
American Hustle (14A) Thu 7-9:45
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Tue 9:45 Wed-Thu 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:45
Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:30-7:05-9:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:15-4:15-7:10-9:15
Homefront (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:20-7:20-9:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7-9:45
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Mon 1:05-3:45-7:15-9:40 Tue 1:05-3:45-7:15

Western Film
Room 340, UCC Building, Argo (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50

Gravity (PG) Fri-Thu 7-9

Wellington 8 Cinemas
983 Wellington Rd. S,

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Wed-Thu 5:15-8:10
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 6:30-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:25 Mon-Tue 5:15-7:40
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 4-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:45
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7 Mon-Thu 5:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Sat-Sun 12:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri 8-9 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:50-4:15-8-9 Mon-Thu 7:30-8
Homefront (14A) Fri 7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:50
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 6:40-10 Sat-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 5-8:15
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Sat-Sun 12:40
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 3:45-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:25

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. CONTRIBUTED

Cineplex Odeon Westmount & VIP Cinemas
755 Wonderland Road South

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Wed 1:20-7:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 7:30-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:45
The Book Thief (PG) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:40-6:40-9:50 Mon 7:20-10:20 Tue 3:40-6:40-9:50 Wed 10:20 Thu 7:20-10:20
Frozen (G) Sat-Sun 11:40
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 5-7:40-10:20 Sat 2:15-5-7:40-10:20 Sun 2:20-5-7:40-10:20 Mon 6:40-9:25 Tue 5-7:40-10:20 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 5:30-9:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:50-5:30-9:10 No Passes Mon 6:30-10:05 No Passes Tue 5:30-9:10 No Passes Wed 6:30-9:40 No Passes Thu 6:30-10:05
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 3-6:30-10:05 No Passes Sat-Sun 11:30-3-6:30-10:05 No Passes Mon 8 No Passes Tue 3-6:30-10:05 No Passes Wed-Thu 8 No Passes Fri 3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Mon 7-10:30 No Passes Tue 3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Wed 1:10-7-10:30 No Passes Thu 7-10:30 No Passes Fri 3:10-6-6:40-9:35-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 11:45-2:20-3:10-6-6:40-9:35-10:10 No Passes Mon 6:40-8:15-10:10 No Passes Tue 3:10-6-6:40-9:35-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:30-10:15
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 3:20-6:50-10:15 Sat 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Sun 12:10-3:20-6:50-10:15 Mon 6:50-10:10 Tue 3:20-6:50-10:15 Wed-Thu 6:50-10:10 Fri 4-7:10-10:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-7:10-10:40 Mon 7:15-10:35 Tue 4-7:10-10:40 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:40
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 12:55
Philomena (PG) Fri 4:45-7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 Mon 7:10-9:35 Tue 4:45-7:15-9:45 Wed 1:30-7:10-9:35 Thu 7:10-9:35
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Sun 1:20
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 4:20-7:30-10:25 Sat 4:50-7:30-10:25 Sun 4:20-7:30-10:25 Mon 7:30-10:25 Tue 4:20-7:30-10:25

SilverCity London
1680 Richmond St

American Hustle (14A) Thu 7-10:05
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:10 Sat 1:35-4:20-7:20-10:10 Sun 1:30-4:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:10
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 11:50-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:30 Sat 5:15-7:50-10:30 Sun 12:40-3:40-7:25 Mon 12-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:25 Tue 11:50-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:30
Frozen (G) Fri-Sat 1-3:50 Sun 12:40-3:50 Mon-Tue 1-3:50 Wed 3:50 Thu 1-3:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:15-9:50 Sat 2:10-4:45-7:15-9:50 Sun 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:15-9:50 Mon 12:10-2:35-5-7:30-9:55 Tue 11:50-2:10-4:45-7:15-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:10-2:35-5-7:30-9:55
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 12:55-4:40-8:15 No Passes Sat 1-4:50-8:20 No Passes Sun 1-4:40-8:15 No Passes Mon 12:30-4:40-8:15 No Passes Tue 1-4:40-8:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 1-4:40-8:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:45-5:20-8:50 No Passes Sun 1:45-5:20-9 No Passes Mon 1:45-5:20-8:50 No Passes Tue 11:30-1:45-5:20-8:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:45-5:20-8:50 No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon 2:30-6:15-10 No Passes Tue 3-6:15-10 No Passes Wed 3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Thu 2:30-6:15-10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30
Homefront (14A) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55 Sun 3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55 Mon 12:40-4:35-7:10-10:15 Tue 12:40-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55 Wed-Thu 12:40-4:25-7:10-10:15
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:10-6:50-7:30-10:05-10:45 Mon 12:25-3:40-6:50-7:05-10:05-10:20 Tue 12:50-4:10-6:50-7:30-10:05-10:45 Wed 4:10-6:50-7:15-10:05-10:25 Thu 12:25-4:10-7:15-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 12:55
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sat 11:25-2:05-4:50-7:45-10:40 Sun 2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Mon 2-4:50-7:45-10:20 Tue 2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Wed-Thu 2-4:50-7:45-10:20
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (PG) Sun 12:55
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:45 Sun 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:35 Mon 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:30 Tue 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:35 Wed 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:20 Thu 2:40-5:10-7:45-10:10
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 8

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Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Electronics are one of the most popular holiday gifts. Don't disappoint by giving someone outdated tech. Here are some of the hottest gadgets to help you wrap up your holiday shopping.

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FitBit Force — $129.99
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iPhone 5s — $719 (no contract)
The world's first 64-bit smartphone. Faster processor, better graphical capabilities and a much better camera are just a few of the features that make this smartphone stand out from the pack. Plus, a TouchID scanner keeps your device locked using your fingerprint as the key.

Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract)
A smartphone for those who love a large screen. Paired with the S Pen (stylus) you can write notes, draw on maps or edit photos without relying on your fingers. It will also transcribe your handwriting into text.

Sony 4K Ultra HDTV — $4,499.99
Help someone build the ultimate man cave with Sony's latest television that boasts four times the resolution of HDTV. This TV up-converts HD video into 4K resolution, which is handy since true 4K content is quite limited. Gamers will love the feature that allows two player games with no split screen.

Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99
Wearable technology is finally here. Pair it with select Samsung smartphones to receive notifications of incoming emails and texts. Make phone calls from your watch or snap pictures and record video with the built-in camera.

Dyson Hard — $349.99
Vacuums may not seem like a great gift, but this vacuum breaks all the rules. This high-tech, cordless Dyson Hard is specifically designed for cleaning hard flooring. Using dual suction channels, it sucks up debris as it removes grime using a wet wipe in a single action. Wet wipes are sold separately.

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US, clockwise, from left, FitBit Force — $129.99, Dyson Hard — $349.99, Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract), and Sony 4K Ultra HD TV — $4,499.99.

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US
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HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US
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HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US

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Glass word votives, $19.99, available at Target, target.ca.

Fluffy Owl Ornament,$5, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

20-inch Red Cranberry Wreath, $34.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Wood Nutcracker Centrepiece, $3.99, available at Target, target.ca.

Reallite Tapers, $35, visit abbott collection.com for retailers.

Penguin Snow Globe, $19.50, available at Indigo, indigo.ca

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For Metro

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Benefit Cosmetics Advent Calendar. Twenty-four days of adorable makeup minis. $79 at Sephora.

Philosophy Festive Favorites Skincare Gift Set. A genius way to give greatest-hits skin care. $94 ($150 value) at Sephora, Hudson's Bay, Shoppers Drug Mart.

Cool-it Caddy Icepops Freezeable Cosmetics Case. Freeze-and-go bag keeps sunscreen and lipstick from melting as you lounge for hours on that tropical beach. $23.95, plus shipping, at TheShoppingChannel.com.

Make Up For Ever Artisan Makeup Brushes. Beautifully constructed, innovative professional tools five years in the making. Double-Ended Sculpting Brush 158, and Medium Paint Brush 412. $61 and $49 at Sephora.

Michael Kors Beauty. Launched this fall, covetable cosmetics from jet-set leisure-wear designer Kors. From $20 to $55 at Hudson's Bay.

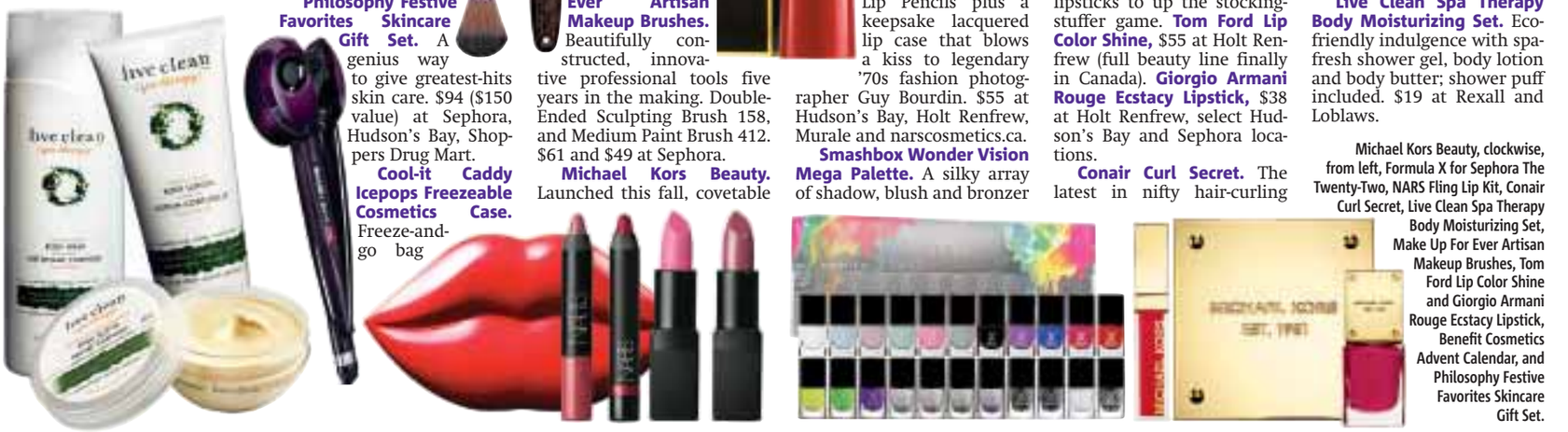
NARS Fling Lip Kit. Two signature sheer lipsticks and mini Velvet Matte Lip Pencils plus a keepsake lacquered lip case that blows a kiss to legendary '70s fashion photographer Guy Bourdin. $55 at Hudson's Bay, Holt Renfrew, Murale and narscosmetics.ca.

Smashbox Wonder Vision Mega Palette. A silky array of shadow, blush and bronzer in a variety of finishes plus professional how-to tips. $58 at Shoppers Drug Mart, Murale, Sephora and smashbox.com.

Luxe Lipsticks. Beautiful, elegant lipsticks to up the stocking-stuffer game. **Tom Ford Lip Color Shine,** $55 at Holt Renfrew (full beauty line finally in Canada). **Giorgio Armani Rouge Ecstacy Lipstick,** $38 at Holt Renfrew, select Hudson's Bay and Sephora locations.

Conair Curl Secret. The latest in nifty hair-curling technology — seeing is believing. $119 at Shoppers Drug Mart and Walmart.

Live Clean Spa Therapy Body Moisturizing Set. Eco-friendly indulgence with spa-fresh shower gel, body lotion and body butter; shower puff included. $19 at Rexall and Loblaws.



Michael Kors Beauty, clockwise, from left, Formula X for Sephora The Twenty-Two, NARS Fling Lip Kit, Conair Curl Secret, Live Clean Spa Therapy Body Moisturizing Set, Make Up For Ever Artisan Makeup Brushes, Tom Ford Lip Color Shine and Giorgio Armani Rouge Ecstacy Lipstick, Benefit Cosmetics Advent Calendar, and Philosophy Festive Favorites Skincare Gift Set.

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Gather all ye around a video game

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Video games continue to be a hot holiday gift for both young and old. Here are some of the top titles for all ages this holiday season.

The Last of Us — PS3
This character-driven action adventure is easily one of the best games for the Playstation 3 this year. A virus spreads across the U.S., turning the population into deadly abominations. An unlikely duo must make their way across a post-pandemic U.S. in the unlikely hope of bringing it all to an end. While the game is amazing, the language and fright factor means mature gamers only.

Beyond: Two Souls — PS3
An incredible psychological action-thriller featuring the voices of Canada's own Ellen Page, along with William Dafoe. A young women possesses supernatural powers through a psychic link to an invisible entity. This game is completely different from any other on the market. Features incredible storytelling, playing out more as a movie than an action game.

Skylanders Swap Force — Multiple consoles
A new adventure with new characters. This time, Skylanders figurines (physical toys that come to life in the game) break apart in the middle so you can mix and match bodies to create all new characters. Kids (and adults) will love the funny new story, but be prepared to shell out cash for all the figurines to see everything Skylanders Swap Force has to offer.

Grand Theft Auto 5 — Xbox 360, PS3
Take on the role of three criminals in the latest instalment of this controversial franchise. GTA 5 features one of the largest and diverse open worlds to discover. Fight rival street gangs, pull off dramatic heists or simply explore the vast city of Los Santos. This groundbreaking series is filled with violence and coarse language so don't even consider purchasing this for youngsters. Mature gamers only.

Pokemon X/Y — Nintendo 3DS
This classic Nintendo franchise gets a massive overhaul just in time for the holidays. This is the first Pokemon game to feature full 3D environments. With all new Pokemon to collect and a campaign that will take 30-plus hours to complete, this new title will satisfy fans both old and new.

Super Mario 3D World — Wii U
The perfect game to play as a family. Super Mario 3D World is the first 3D Mario platformer for Nintendo's Wii U console. Play as Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach or Toad as you overcome wildly creative obstacles. Get ready for new power-ups like the cat suit and new never-seen-before enemies like sand Goombas.

Batman Arkham Origins — Xbox 360, PS3
Taking place before the rise of Gotham's most dangerous villains and assassins, this game features a young Batman still in the early stages of his career as a crime fighter. This title introduces the notorious villains Batman will find himself fighting for years to come. A must-have for comic book lovers on your list.

Far Cry 3 — Xbox 360, PS3
Stranded in a tropical paradise and fighting to survive, Far Cry 3 brings incredible game play with one of the most memorable villains. Explore an island full of secrets and use the environment to craft items and weapons to help you survive.

Dead Rising 3 — Xbox One
Zombies have never been more popular. This Vancouver-developed title for Microsoft's Xbox One console will have you crafting makeshift weapons to take on a hoards of flesh-eating zombies before a military strike wipes the city you are stranded in off the map. The clock is ticking — can you make it out alive?

Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag — Multiple consoles
Take the helm of your ship and live the life of a pirate. Explore open waters and dive for treasure in this historical action-adventure featuring many figures from the golden age of piracy. This franchise has been a favourite, and the latest instalment looks absolutely gorgeous.

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Wishing all a safe and happy holiday season

GIFTS OF HOPE: WHEN GIVING IS RECEIVING

Two years ago, Ginger and Scott McClelland decided to see if they could make Christmas a little bit more about giving than receiving. After going through a Gifts of Hope catalogue they had received in the mail, the Ottawa couple chose baby chicks to give to all of their grandchildren.

Gifts of Hope are ethical gifts, which means they give twice — here and abroad. Ginger and Scott felt these gifts were the perfect way to introduce a special kind of holiday giving to their grandchildren. Once the four children, who ranged in age from 10 to 14, had opened the gift card with the picture of a fluffy baby chick on the front, Ginger and Scott explained how the chicks would help support a family in Africa.

"And the kids got very excited very quickly about the gift," Ginger says. "The youngest, Emma, even sent a letter to Santa Claus asking him to make sure the gift got to the family on time."

But the best part of the story was yet to come.

When Christmas came around the following year, the adults in the family agreed that they would exchange Gifts of Hope. However, during the gift exchange the really big surprise was that the four kids had decided that they would exchange Gifts of Hope with each other as well.

"All in all, I think we gave 12 Gifts of Hope, ranging from newborn checkup and a bed net to chicks, a goat, three hens and a rooster," Ginger says. "Our gift to each other was literacy training for two women.

"Sometimes you look at what happens at Christmas and think 'we may be missing the whole point,'" Scott says. "But it was a very emotional and special Christmas last year, and I was incredibly proud of my family."

Gifts of Hope provided everyone in the McClelland family a wonderful way to help make someone else's life a little better and to feel good about it.

"Gifts of Hope really are a unique gift-giving opportunity," says Sangita Patel, director of program management at Plan Canada.

"For people who purchase a gift, it's a way to give a socially conscious gift and to avoid crowded malls. For the recipient, the gift is contributing to important work overseas. For the children of the community that receives the gift, it's about changing and improving their lives."

Plan Canada is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies. Founded in 1937, it works in 69 countries and more than 90,000 communities around the world. Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's increasingly popular year-round ethical giving program, especially popular during the holiday period.

For parents — and grandparents like the McClellands — a Gift of Hope is a great tool to very gently and in a positive way expose children to what life is like for other children in other places, Patel says.

"They provide such a nice teachable moment for kids amidst the holiday rush."

Gifts of Hope support Plan Canada programs in the areas of education, health, clean water, and livelihoods. Fifteen of the gifts are also designated as "Because I am a Girl" gifts, which go to support the work Plan does that directly benefits girls and women.

"These gifts help to unleash the power of girls and women to create a brighter, safer future for girls in the developing world," Patel says.

Gifts suit any budget, ranging in price from $10 for anti-malaria bed nets to $75 for a goat to $1,000 for water and sanitation for communities. Sometimes the dollar value of the gift is matched by a government, foundation or corporate partner for even more impact.

"It's a great way to show care for what's happening in other places," Patel says. "And to show children how one gift can make lives better for other kids and families."

One of the McClelland's grandchildren, Ben, 14, says that the Gift of Hope chicks seemed "kind of weird" at first.

"But after I learned more about it, it felt like you could really help other people, and it was nice to be giving something rather than always just getting a lot."

Ginger and Scott McClelland with their grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED

REAL GIFTS THAT CHANGE REAL LIVES

In all, there are 42 Gifts of Hope to choose from, ranging in price from $10 to $50,000. Every gift comes with a free greeting card or e-card, and 26 of the gifts are matched by government, foundation or organizational partners. Here are some examples:

- Bed nets, $10 (matched for a $70 value)
- School essentials for one child, $17 (matched for a $119 value)
- Birth certificate, $25 (matched for $125 value)
- Newborn checkup, $30 (matched for a $120 value)
- Clean water for families, $75 (matched for $225 value)
- Literacy training for two women, $120 (matched for $600 value)
- Farm load of animals, $190 (matched for a $760 value)
- Help orphaned children affected by HIV, $75 (matched for a $1,200 value)

To see more Gifts of Hope or to place an order, visit plangifts.com or call 1-800-387-1418.

Think outside the gift box

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Whites that like variety

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As sure as Rudolph was a reindeer, you're going to feel some level of stress over the holidays — possibly when choosing a wine to match with your family feast.

Since Charles was a little Dickens, turkey has been the headliner. Unfortunately, the bird never travels alone. It's always surrounded by sweet and savoury sides that can throw a curve ball at even the most accommodating wine match.

If you're a white wine fan, think sparkling. A fresh bubbly is the great equalizer, pairing with just about everything (even if you decide on red meat or seafood this Xmas).

The classic turkey-meets-stuffing-meets-cranberry scenario that will play out on most tables is a lover of full-bodied chardonnay. Try one with a touch of oaky goodness from Australia, Chile, Canada or California.

Whites with a hint of residual sugar like savoury and sweet. The balanced, juicy fruit of Moselland's 2012 Ars Vitis Riesling ($9.95 - $16.99) is a guaranteed crowd pleaser that looks as good as it tastes.

Next week: My red picks. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fancy doesn't have to mean complicated

Spinach-stuffed Chicken Thighs. This dish makes it possible to dazzle guests without much effort

1. In skillet over medium heat, wilt spinach until reduced. Let cool until easily handled, then squeeze moisture from spinach. Finely chop. You should have about 1/3 cup. Set aside.

2. Using paring knife, remove skin and bone from 2 chicken thighs. Place them in food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add ice and process until absorbed. Add sour cream and pulse again until well mixed. Add spinach, 1/2 teaspoon salt, fennel, lemon zest, nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Pulse, scraping down sides, until mixed. Set aside.

3. Arrange remaining thighs on cutting board, skin side up. Carefully pull back skin, leaving attached on one end. Divide ground chicken and spinach mixture evenly between 6 thighs, spreading it evenly. Stretch skin back over filling on each thigh. Arrange stuffed thighs on plate, cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

4. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. In oven-safe skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Season chicken skin lightly with salt and pepper, then add the chicken to the skillet, skin side down. Cook until skin is golden brown, then use tongs to turn thighs skin side up. Place skillet in the oven and roast for 25 minutes, or until the thighs reach 160 F.

5. Remove skillet from the oven and cover with foil. Let rest 5 minutes before transferring each thigh to serving plate. Spoon any juices from skillet over the thighs before serving. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Ingredients

- 5 oz baby spinach
- 2 lbs skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs (8 thighs)
- 2 tbsp crushed ice
- 1/3 cup low-fat sour cream
- Kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp fennel seeds, crushed
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1/8 tsp grated nutmeg
- Ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

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Handmade holiday cheer

Popular daytime TV hosts Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman are getting into the holiday spirit and are ready to help add glitz and glamour to your holidays with these clever tips. For more holiday season DIY decor ideas, watch Steven & Chris weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC. **ALL PHOTOS AND TEXT PROVIDED BY STEVEN AND CHRIS**

DIY deer head

The rustic charm of winter is timeless, yet seemingly effortlessly chic. Here's one rustic holiday look that you can create at home with simple supplies — the kids can help too!

- Deer head template (all the templates are available at cbc.ca/stevenandchris)
- Foam core/cardboard
- Spray glue
- Vintage wrapping paper/ wallpaper
- Utility knife

Method:
1. Download, print and cut out the template on your home printer.
2. Once you've cut out the template, trace the image onto foam core or cardboard.
3. Carefully cut out each of the pieces using a utility knife.
4. Find some great vintage wallpaper or cool wrapping paper. Spray glue the wallpaper/ wrapping paper onto the pieces of foam core/cardboard.
5. Carefully fit all the pieces together, mount on the wall, and you're done.

DIY snow globes

There's nothing more festive than holiday decor that offers a touch of retro fun. Spread the holiday cheer at your next dinner party with these place card snow globes.

- Silicone glue
- Small holiday decor items
- Small sisal trees
- Small plastic stars
- Mason jars
- Acetate paper
- Oil based marker
- Glycerin
- Foam
- Utility knife
- Cutting mat
- Glue gun

Method:
1. Using the Mason jar, make a template on the foam and cut out small foam pucks.
2. Score the inside of the lid with sandpaper.
3. Glue the Styrofoam pucks to the lid and then glue the small holiday figurines and sisal trees.
4. Cut out a small piece of acetate and write your guests' name on it. Glue the acetate to a plastic star and the star to the tree.
5. Fill the jar with water and a touch of glycerin. Add glitter.
6. Insert the scene into the jar after it has set. We recommend 24 hours. Screw lid on tight, turn upside down and shake.

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SPORTS 4

Bennett having fun again in London

NBL Canada. Newest Lightning guard happy to leave Lithuania behind where basketball had become just another job

DAVE LANGFORD
dave.langford@metronews.ca

Let's just say Tony Bennett did not leave his heart in Lithuania.

Instead of playing basketball in Europe, the London Lightning's newest guard was in the starting lineup Thursday for a National Basketball League of Canada game against the Mississauga Power.

Bennett's only points were the final two as the Lightning losing streak ended at three games, beating the Power 87-84 before 2,860 spectators.

The Lightning are now idle until next Thursday when they play at home against the Halifax Rainmen.

"I just didn't fit on what the coach wanted to do (in Lithuania)," Bennett said. "Instead of me being a burden on the coach and the coach being a burden on me, I just asked, in a professional manner, that I be released."

Lightning general manager Taylor Brown thought they would have had Bennett at the first of the season, not midway through. He got the call from Bennett's agent three weeks ago.

"We had talked to him in the off-season and then he had called me — we actually had a contract out to him — and said he had this offer overseas for this much money," Brown said. "All I said was, 'Tony, you have to take it.'"

And take it he did. But the situation changed and he came calling, with the hope that he could now come to London.

"I'm glad to be having fun playing basketball again," Bennett said. "I just don't think I fit in that situation. It kind of became a job and it's never been that for me."

Brown said Bennett is just the kind of player the Lightning have been looking for.

"He's a vocal leader and he's kind of like a coach on the court," Brown said. "He really orchestrates the offence. Gets the guys moving to the right spots."

Adapting quickly

Tony Bennett, he of the Bradley University fame who made it to the Sweet 16 in 2006, said he already feels the love in London.

- "It's (a) very, very Americanized city. People are nice here. The fans are ridiculous. I hadn't played a game and they talk to me and treat me like a legend or something."
- And what about his singing ability?
- "The last few years it's kind of died down. At first, everywhere I went somebody brought it up to me: 'Can you sing?'"

The London Lightning's Marvin Phillips goes up for two during Thursday's game against the Mississauga Power at Budweiser Gardens. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

NHL

Feaster out as GM in Calgary

The Calgary Flames shook up their front office Thursday after a disappointing start to the season, firing general manager Jay Feaster and assistant general manager John Weisbrod.

The Flames have just 26 points this season, good for 13th place in the 14-team Western Conference.

Brian Burke, the team's president of hockey operations, will serve as acting general manager. He said the search for Feaster's replacement is underway.

Burke felt the moves needed to be made to get the franchise back on track as it tries to pursue a championship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Chamberlain joining Tigers

Joba Chamberlain and the Tigers have agreed to terms on a one-year contract, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

Chamberlain will get a fresh start in Detroit in a relatively low-pressure role as a middle reliever.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Red Sox open coffer for Napoli

The Boston Red Sox finalized their two-year deal with first baseman Mike Napoli on Thursday, bringing back one of the biggest hitters from the World Series team.

Napoli will earn $32 million through 2015.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OVERTIME
with Micheal Ray Richardson
Get the inside track on the London Lightning as Metro's Dave Langford chats with coach and former NBA star Micheal Ray, every week at metronews.ca
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metronews.ca

Tyler Bertuzzi has added offence to his game in his third season with the Guelph Storm. COURTESY TERRY WILSON/OHL IMAGES

Bertuzzi taking flight with Storm

OHL. Third-year winger enjoying strong season in Guelph

Tyler Bertuzzi is making Detroit Red Wings general manager Ken Holland and his scouts appear rather shrewd these days.

Bertuzzi, an 18-year-old winger with the Guelph Storm, is having a career year, justifying the Red Wings' decision to make him a surprise second-round selection (58th overall) in this year's NHL draft.

Heading into Friday's game in London, Bertuzzi has 10 goals and 25 assists in his third season with the Storm. He has three goals in his last two games, scoring two in a win over Sarnia last Sunday and one in a victory against Plymouth the night before. He also had a five-point night — the first of his career — with a goal and four assists against Kitchener on Nov. 1.

With 35 points on the season, he needs just five more to exceed the 39 he mustered in his first two OHL campaigns combined.

"First year, I was just coming in as the new guy," he said. "I didn't know what to expect, really. I just thought I needed to dump (the puck) in and chase it and just work hard. You've always got to work hard.

"That's always going to be part of my game. Your game's going to evolve over the years, and mine's evolved into being a threat offensively."

With Bertuzzi's help, Guelph has gone 6-3-1 in its last 10 games and sits fourth in the tight Western Conference with a 22-6-2-1 record.

Detroit usually has a tendency to wait until later rounds to make surprise picks, such as selecting stars Henrik Zetterberg (seventh round, 210th overall in 1999) and Pavel Datsyuk (sixth round, 171st overall in 1998).

"It was pretty shocking when it happened, obviously, in the second round," Bertuzzi said.

Thinking that he would go somewhere in the fourth to sixth rounds, Bertuzzi did not even attend the draft festivities in Newark, N.J., and viewed them on TV instead.

"He's a high-energy guy," said Guelph coach Scott Walker. "In the NHL, he's one of those guys that you love to play with. He grinds it out, but he's got more skill than guys give him credit for. He plays the game the right way and can do a lot of different things for us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Family ties

Tyler Bertuzzi is the nephew of current Red Wings winger Todd Bertuzzi.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	31	21	8	2	86	62	44
Montreal	32	19	10	3	85	71	41
Detroit	32	15	9	8	87	85	38
Tampa Bay	30	17	10	3	85	76	37
Toronto	32	16	13	3	87	90	35
Ottawa	32	12	14	6	92	105	30
Florida	32	10	17	5	73	106	25
Buffalo	31	7	22	2	53	92	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	32	13	13	6	75	91	32
NY Rangers	32	15	16	1	70	84	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
Columbus	31	13	15	3	78	86	29
Philadelphia	31	13	15	3	70	85	29
NY Islanders	32	9	18	5	80	111	23

Thursday's results

Montreal at Philadelphia
Columbus at NY Rangers
Buffalo at Ottawa
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Toronto at St. Louis
Dallas at Nashville
Colorado at Winnipeg
Carolina at Calgary
NY Islanders at Phoenix
Boston at Edmonton
Minnesota at San Jose

Wednesday's results

Los Angeles 3 Toronto 1
Chicago 7 Philadelphia 2
Anaheim 2 Minnesota 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	34	23	6	5	129	93	51
St. Louis	29	20	6	3	100	67	43
Minnesota	33	18	10	5	78	77	41
Colorado	29	20	9	0	83	68	40
Dallas	29	14	10	5	83	86	33
Winnipeg	32	14	14	4	83	90	32
Nashville	31	14	14	3	71	89	31

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	34	22	7	5	108	87	49
Los Angeles	32	21	7	4	88	63	46
San Jose	31	19	6	6	103	78	44
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	30	17	8	5	97	94	39
Calgary	30	11	15	4	79	100	26
Edmonton	32	11	18	3	89	109	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's games

All Times Eastern

New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Saturday's games

Calgary at Buffalo, 2 p.m.
Los Angeles at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Dallas at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Montreal at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Boston at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	16	27	43
Kane, Chi	17	25	42
Getzlaf, Ana	16	22	38
Malkin, Pgh	8	30	38
Perry, Ana	21	15	36
Tavares, NYI	12	24	36
Ovechkin, Wash	26	9	35
Steen, StL	21	12	33
Sharp, Chi	15	17	32
Backstrom, Wash	7	25	32
Thornton, SJ	5	27	32
Kunitz, Pgh	17	14	31
Kessel, Tor	16	14	30
Marleau, SJ	14	16	30
St. Louis, TBL	13	17	30
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Couture, SJ	10	20	30
Toews, Chi	13	16	29

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	14	.417	10
Charlotte	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Detroit	10	13	.435	9½
Chicago	8	12	.400	10
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10½
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	11½
Orlando	7	15	.318	12
Philadelphia	7	16	.304	12½
New York	6	15	.286	12½
Milwaukee	5	17	.227	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	½
d-San Antonio	17	4	.810	½
d-L.A. Clippers	15	8	.652	3½
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4½
Phoenix	12	9	.571	5½
Golden State	13	10	.565	5½
Dallas	13	10	.565	5½
Minnesota	11	11	.500	7
New Orleans	10	10	.500	7
Memphis	10	11	.476	7½
L.A. Lakers	10	11	.476	7½
Sacramento	6	14	.300	11
Utah	5	19	.208	14

x - clinched playoff berth; **y** - division; **z** - conference.

Thursday's results

L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn
Houston at Portland

Wednesday's results

Orlando 92 Charlotte 83
L.A. Clippers 96 Boston 88
San Antonio 109 Milwaukee 77
New Orleans 111 Detroit 106 OT
Minnesota 106 Philadelphia 99
New York 83 Chicago 78
Oklahoma City 116 Memphis 100
Utah 122 Sacramento 101
Golden State 95 Dallas 93

Women's hockey

Canada coach steps down with Sochi fast approaching

Dan Church abruptly resigned as head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team saying he felt others lacked confidence in his ability to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Church stepped down from the job Thursday less than two months before the Games' opening ceremonies.

"If there isn't confidence in what I'm doing, I need to step aside and let the team move on," Church told The Canadian Press in a phone interview. "I'm heartbroken, to be honest, about the whole situation."

He did not specify whether it was players or Hockey Canada management who questioned his competence.

"Just discussions I'd had over the last few days made that apparent, in some meetings I'd had with leadership," Church said. "I think it was just difference of opinion on the direction we were headed.

"In the end, I just decided if I'm getting in the way of where the team needs to go, I need to step aside and let them continue on in the process."

The move was a bombshell as the 21-player Olympic team was expected to be announced before the end of December. The Canadian women will attempt to win a fourth straight gold medal in Sochi after victories in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

Canada has been training full time in Calgary since August in preparation for the Olympics, and was riding a three-game winning streak against archrival U.S. heading into Thursday night's game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A decision you made a long time ago doesn't seem like a great idea now but you're stuck with it. Make the best of the situation and promise yourself you won't be so hasty in future.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Expect your workload to increase a lot over the next 24 hours. That may not sound like good news but at least it shows that important people trust you to get the job done.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem to others that you never lack confidence but that's not true and as the Sun moves through your opposite sign there will be times of self-doubt. Bite back — hard.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will get what you deserve today: no more and no less. Jupiter in your sign links with Saturn in a way that guarantees you get out of life in direct proportion to what you've put in. And you've put in a lot.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may have to do something that makes you unpopular today but that won't worry you. You know there are times when you have to put duty before pleasure and this is clearly one of them. Do it well.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Saturn may be casting a cloud over money matters but you can still have fun. Besides, if you keep a tight hold of the purse strings now you will have more to spend over the holiday period and party season.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't over-extend yourself at work or your energy may take a nose-dive early next week. Today's Jupiter-Saturn link will help you to persuade others to do things for you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets you will do better, both financially and emotionally, if you open up and let friends and family members know how you feel and what it is you need.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why is it that people are so demanding? Most likely it's because they know you are too nice to say "no". At some stage today you need to get tough and let certain people know they have to do more.

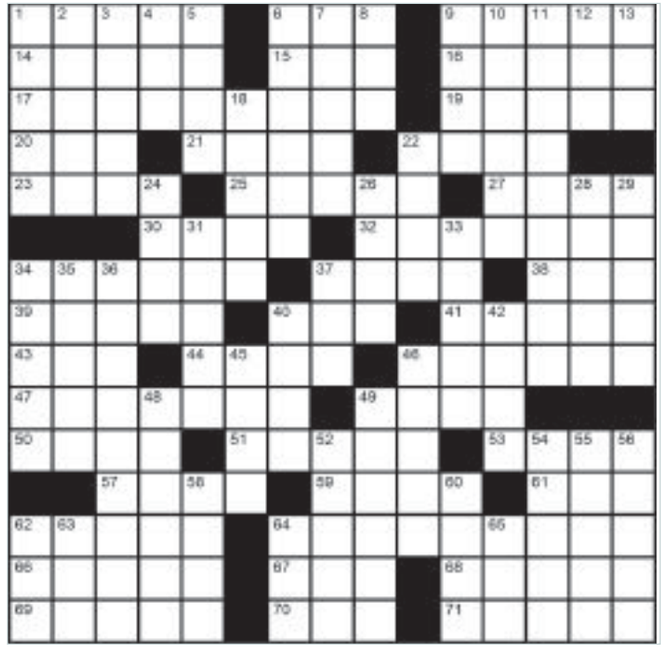
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your frustration may get the better of you and you will say or do something that gets you noticed for the wrong reason. At least others will be aware that you're not afraid to hit back at provocation.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Accept that you won't get things your way all the time, especially at work where some people seem to take a delight in being unreasonable. It's only a passing phase.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Jupiter and Saturn link across the most favourable angles of your chart today and the most likely outcome is that you will be rewarded for services you have done for others in the past. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

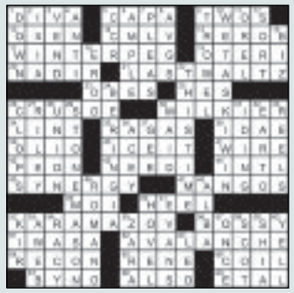
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of __" (2013)
6. Pea's packaging
9. Fearing-one's suffix
14. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jordan
15. "Do They Know It's Christmas?" co-songwriter Midge
16. Cad
17. Guy __, Cirque du Soleil founder
19. Articulate
20. 'Can' completer
21. Additional
22. Title for a Miss, in Spanish [abbr.]
23. D'Urbervilles heroine
25. Dog collar attachment
27. Man, in Milan
30. Ski lift
32. Hair-off-the-face styles: 2 wds.
34. "Brian's Song" (1971) role, Gale __
37. Insect stage
38. Bronze Roman money
39. Sidekick
40. Paper product
41. "Spider-Man" (2002) director Sam
43. Televise
44. "__ Flux" (2005)
46. President of France's residence, __ Palace
47. Wayne Gretzky team, e.g.: 2 wds.
49. Actress Jessica
50. Stamps spots, shortly
51. "The Sound of Music" (1965) role
53. Rhyming pattern
57. Doctrines
59. Small salmon
61. Kick ___ fuss
62. Once in _ __ moon
64. BC city
66. "A Madea Christmas" (2013) star Mr. Perry
67. Li'l cartoon 'Devil'
68. Canonical hour
69. Moose, if done how Goose gets pluralized
70. 'Prop' suffix (Fuel)
71. Japan: Global Warming treaty city

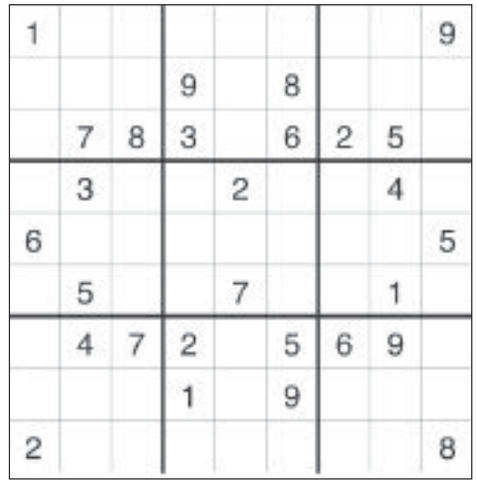
Down
1. Water-balloon-to-ground sound
2. "Morning Express with Robin __" on HLN
3. Rand McNally product
4. William Tell's canton
5. Mr. Kaplan
6. Ship's accountant
7. "Coffee __ __?"
8. Billy __ Williams
9. Not singular [abbr.]
10. "The Bachelor" date site: 2 wds.
11. Region of Quebec near Ottawa
12. Mad Cow Disease letters
13. 'Ballad' suffix
18. Ms. Fitzgerald's
22. Store
24. British WWII submachine gun
26. __ earring
28. Boeotian Muse of memory
29. Actor Mr. Davis
31. Actor Mr. Cranston
33. "I speak French." = "Je __ francais."
34. Weighing need
35. 'Parliament' suffix
36. Stylish area of Toronto
37. Criticize
40. Model
42. The Clan of the Cave Bear heroine
45. Breakfast breakees
46. After __ (Mints)
48. Topics
49. Sculpture material
52. Body of water
54. "Thanks, __ __ thanks!"
55. "You're _ __ and don't even know it!"
56. Nova Scotia's Straight of __
58. Slight
60. Sty cry
62. 24 hr. banker
63. "Farewell."
64. School org.
65. Demure

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	5	4	8	1	7	2	9
2	9	8	6	5	7	4	1	3
7	4	1	9	2	3	6	5	8
1	3	4	5	9	8	2	7	6
6	2	9	7	1	4	3	8	5
5	8	7	2	3	6	9	4	1
9	7	3	8	4	5	1	6	2
4	5	2	1	6	9	8	3	7
8	1	6	3	7	2	5	9	4

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